POL 14 VIETS

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

474

Saigon 5727

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Action

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1966 SEP 11 AM 1 29

VV MJA463JIA512
FE GO RUEHC RUEKDA
Info DE RUMJIR 5727 2541710
ZNR UUUUU
SS O 110500Z SEP 66
G FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
SP TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SAI INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
L RUEKDA/DOD IMMEDIATE
H RUEKDA/JCS IMMEDIATE
SAL ZEN/AMCONSUL HUE IMMEDIATE
IO RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
P RUALOS/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
NSC STATE
INR BT
NIC UNCLAS SAIGON 5727
AID
OPR SEPT 11

ELECTION SITUATION REPORT 1200 SEPTEMBER 11

RSK

1. ELECTION DAY DAWNED SUNNY AND QUIET IN SAIGON AFTER NIGHT INTERRUPPTED BY SEVERAL GRENADINGS. VNAF C-47 CIRCLED CITY AT LOW ALTITUDE DROPPING LEAFLETS URGING PEOPLE TO GO TO THE POLLS. VIETNAMESE FLAGS WERE DISPLAYED BEFORE MANY SHOPS AND HOUSES.

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2. GENERALS THIEU AND THANG AND APPROXIMATLEY TEN OTHER MEMBERS OF DIRECTORATE MADE 30-MINUTE MID-MORNING INSPECTION OF GVN ELECTIONS CENTER AT DIEN HONG HALL IN SAIGON WHERE RESULTS WILL BE TABULATED AND PRESS BRIEFINGS WILL BE HELD. ALL WERE IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND MOOD CLEARLY ONE OF OPTIMISM. FIRST PRESS BRIEFING SCHEDULED FOR 1200, WILL DEAL WITH REPORTS ON WATHER THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND INITIAL TURNOUT. TABULATION OF RETURNS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ABUT 2000.

3. VOTER TURNOUT IN SAIGON-GIA DINH (WITH ONE-FOURTH OF TOT[illegible]OTER REGISTRATION) WAS REPORTED BY GVN OFFICI[illegible] MEETING EXPECTIONS. SAIGON

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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CITY HALL ESTIMATED FINAL TALLIES WILL REACH 60-70 PERCENT FOR SAIGON; GIA DINH PROVINCE CHIEF ESTIMATES 70-80 PERCENT FINAL FIGURE FOR HIS PROVINCE. EMBOFFS REPORT MODERATE TO HEAVY VOTER TRAFFIC AT POLLING PLACES THROUGHOUT CITY, INCLUDING THOSE IN AREAS OF HEAVY BUDDHIST CONCENTRATION. AT ONE POLLING PLACE ACROSS STREET FROM XY VIEN TU PAGODA, CENTER OF SEVERAL PAST DEMONSTRATIONS, POLICE REPORTED THAT SOME BUDDHIST MONKS HAD VOTED AS OF

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0900 AND VOTING HAD BEEN HEAVY. HOWEVER, AT 0930 POLICE REPORTED THAT SOME EIGHTY MONKS ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE PAGODA WITH BANNERS TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST ELECTION. GROUP WAS QUICKLY DISPERSED. (THIS IS ONLY KNOWN INCIDENT OF OVERT ANTI-ELECTION ACTIVITY IN SAIGON SINCE POLLS OPENED.) AS POINT OF INTEREST, EMBOFFS OBSERVED GOOD TURNOUT AT THREE POLLING PLACES WHICH HAD BEEN GRENADED DURING NIGHT.

4. VOTING IN CHOLON WAS REPORTED AS VERY HEAVY. DISTRICT HEADQUATERS REPORTED A 30 PERCENT TURNOUT BY 10 AM. VOTERS WERE OBSERVED STANDING IN LONG LINES AT SEVERAL POLLING PLACES.

5. EARLY SCATTERED REPORTS FROM THE PROVINCES AS FOLLOWS:

A. HUE - -CONSULATE DESCRIBES ATMOSPHERE IN CITY AS QUIET AND ORDERLY ON ELECTION MORNING. VOTERS OBSERVED GOING TO THE POLLS IN LARGE NUMBERS.

B. BIEN HOA- - REPORT FROM BIEN HOA JUST BEFORE NOON INDICATES THAT TURNOUT HAS ALREADY REACHED FIFTY PERCENT MARK.

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C. VINH LONG- - TWENTY PERCENT OF ELECTORS HAD TURNED OUT BY 0900. INFORMATION BASED ON TELEPHONIC REPORTS FROM EACH DISTRICT.



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D. DELTA - - AS OF 0930 11 OF FIFTEEN PROVINCES IN IV CORPS REPORTED AN AVERAGE TURNOUT OF TEN PERCENT. PROVINCES NOT YET REPORTING WERE KIEN PHONG, KIEN TUONG, BA XUYEN AND CHUONG THIEN.

E. POLAD DA NANG DESCRIBES GENERAL SITUATION AS "GOOD" WITH SPRINKLING OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS INCLUDING MORTAR FIRE AND GRENADES. SINCE MIDNIGHT THERE HAVE BEEN THREE SEPARATE GRENADE INCIDENTS IN DA NANG, NO ONE INJURED. AS OF TEN A.M. 42 PERCENT OF DANANG VOTERS HAD GONE TO THE POLLS.
LODGE

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O AT 1:40 A.M., SEPTEMBER 11.
PASSED WHITE HOUSE, CIA, USIA, NSA 1:40 A.M., SEPTEMBER 11.



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